Magnetic Locks

Magnetic locks are a recent innovation to the security world. Their basic operation involves the principle that like poles of a magnetic repel each other, while opposite poles repel. A magnetic lock then does not have pins, but magnets (which are often behind a plastic "roof" on the keyway). When all these magnets are in the "repelled" position, meaning a similar magnetic pole is below them, a lever arm releases the lock. A key then would have a magnet arrangement identical to that of the lock. These locks may be activated either by a flat, notchless key, or by use of a magnetic card, where in the lock actually uses a two dimensional arrangement of magnets. These are not too common, but can be found in some installations.

Opening Magnetic Locks

By using a pulsating electromagnetic field, you can cause the magnets in the lock to vibrate at thirty vibrations per second, thereby allowing it to open by applying constant tension to the bolt. You should be able to purchase one of these "picks" from a locksmith supply company. Unfortunately, this method usually ruins the properties of the lock's magnets, so use it in emergencies only. The magnetic pick can be used in padlocks by stroking it across the place where the key is placed. It is also designed to fit into a doorknob and is then used by stroking one pole in and out.